

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th September 1896.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
CALCUTTA.					
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Calcutta	5,000	.....	Temporarily discontinued from May, 1896.
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	19th September, 1896.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	22nd ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	18th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	2,500	19th ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	.....	19th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	16th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ..	Ditto	3,000	18th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	19th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	14th and 21st September, 1896.	
Daily.					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	About 350	18th, 19th and 22nd to 24th September, 1896.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	20th to 24th September, 1896.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	21st September, 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200	18th, 19th and 21st to 23rd September, 1896.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	19th and 22nd to 24th September, 1896.	
HINDI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000		
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000		
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	.....	14th ditto.	
URDU.					
Weekly.					
1	"Darassaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	17th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauhariassfi"	Ditto	330	16th ditto.	
BURDWAN DIVISION.					
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	450	16th ditto.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	700		
Weekly.					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	About 250	15th ditto.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	550	20th ditto.	
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,145	18th ditto.	
PRESIDENCY DIVISION.					
BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	826	16th ditto.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto	603		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
ORISSA DIVISION.						
URIYA.						
Monthly.						
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	160		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190			
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309			
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480			
PATNA DIVISION.						
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	19th September, 1896.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	17th ditto.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	14th ditto.		
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	16th ditto.		
2	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number, 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
DACCA DIVISION.						
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244	14th September, 1896.		
Weekly.						
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal	18th September, 1896.		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	14th ditto.		
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	20th ditto.		
4	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	About 440	19th ditto.		
5	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240	17th ditto.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500			
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	700	Sravan 1st and 2nd fortnights, 1303 B.S.		
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	28th August, 4th and 11th September, 1896.		
ASSAM.						
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sanjivani* of the 19th September writes as follows:—

The Amir's friendship with the English Government.

The British Government is trying its best to keep the Amir of Afghanistan attached to itself. It is paying him a handsome allowance, humouring him to the top of his bent, and even putting up with insults and indignities from the Amir and his men, its object in all this being to prevent the Amir from going over to any other rival Power. It was also with this object in view that the Government bore the expenses of the visit paid to Europe by the Amir's son. The Amir has given shelter to Umra Khan, the British Government's enemy, but the Government is quite silent about the matter. The *Pioneer* says that Sir Mortimer Durand, on the occasion of his visit to Afghanistan, gave the Amir the Bosgal valley and half the Mohumund territory. The Amir has now not only taken possession of the whole Bosgal valley, but has asserted his supremacy over the whole of Kafiristan, and has treated its inhabitants with inhuman barbarity. He is now laying his claim to the whole of the Mohumund territory, and has even ventured so far as to send an Agent to Mitai, in Bajour, for the collection of revenue, and is making arrangements for the placing of an Afghan garrison there. He has violated the terms of the treaty into which he entered with Sir Mortimer Durand, and has also made up his mind to make Umra Khan Governor of his newly-acquired territories. He is deaf to the protests of the British Government, and is steadily giving effect to his intentions. The Amir is in no way inferior to the British Government in diplomacy. It is rumoured that he has entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Turkey and Russia. If this is true, the British Government has been rightly served for its folly. It is impossible to purchase the Amir's attachment with money. We have always pointed out the short-sightedness of the policy of extending British territory beyond the Indian frontiers. The Amir, whose enemies the British Government has kept confined in India, as State prisoners, and is maintaining at the cost of the Indian people—the Amir to whom the Government is paying money and arms every year—has, after all, played false, and is acting inimically towards the British Government!

SANJIVANI
Sept. 19th, 1896.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Sansodhini* of the 4th September says that the dead body of a

A case of suspicious death in Chittagong.

Musalman of 25 or 26 was, a few days ago, discovered in Baklia, near Chittagong town. It was found lying half in water and half on land, and it is rumoured that the skin was clean off the body, as if through burning, the teeth had all fallen off, and the neck bore marks of strangulation. The body was buried with the permission of the police, but it has now been exhumed and sent to the Civil Surgeon for *post-mortem* examination. But it has by this time become shapeless, and is in a state of decomposition. The mother of the deceased says that his murderers had promised to pay her Rs. 160, and induced her to depose to the police that her son had died of an epileptic fit. But they have given her only Rs. 80, and she has therefore come forward to tell the truth.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 4th, 1896.

3. The same paper complains of the conduct of the Chittagong police in a theft case. One, Kunja, was in the employ of

The Chittagong police in a theft case.

the Local Normal School Hostel. It was resolved to dismiss him for his faults, upon which he secured an employment in the house of Bagala Babu, the Deputy Magistrate of Chittagong. A few days after this, there was a theft in the building of the vernacular school attached to the Normal School. The school authorities naturally suspected Kunja, and reported against him to the police. The police, however, at first hesitated to enter the report in the diary, and did not hold an inquiry on the spot that very night. The next day a local inquiry was made by the head-constable, but he did not examine Kunja, who was accused of the theft. Not satisfied with this inquiry, the Secretary of the school brought the matter to the notice of the Magistrate. The police was now obliged to make a full inquiry. But in the meantime Kunja had decamped with three rupees from

SANSODHINI

the Deputy Magistrate's house. The police has now got a warrant issued against Kunja. On the day of theft Kunja was seen at 4 P.M., and also immediately before the theft was committed, loitering in the school building. A stolen box was also discovered on the way to Bagala Babu's house. This is not the only proof of the supineness of the town police. It has conducted itself in a shabby way towards Nityananda Babu, and he has complained against it to the Magistrate.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

4. In stating the fact that the murderer of one Abbas Shaikh has not been detected, the *Charu Mihir* of the 14th September observes that the inefficiency of the Mymensingh police, in tracing criminals, has become a matter of wide notoriety. It did not succeed in tracing the culprits in any one of the very large number of murder and dacoity cases, which occurred in the district in the course of the last year. Matters will not improve so long as the fat-bellied police officers now in Mymensingh are not replaced by more efficient men from other districts. Perfect anarchy will reign in Mymensingh, if Government does not soon see its way to do this.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 16th, 1896.

5. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th September says that one Giribala, daughter of Pares Chandra Chaudhuri, of Damodarbati, in the Bankura district, was, on the 30th August last, while going from Bibarda to her father's house, in the company of one Umi Layekni, delivered into the hands of Akshay Majumdar, a coolie-recruiter, and has not been heard of since. Giribala is 26 or 27 years of age, and has left a son and a daughter at home. Babu Brajanandan Goswami, of Bibarda, writes to say that the police helps the recruiters in their work. A constable of the Taldangra out-post brought the above *arkati* to Bibarda and left him there saying that he was a detective officer of the Excise Department.

SAHACHAR,
Sept. 16th, 1896.

6. The *Sahachar* of the 16th September says that though Government is to be praised for the decision with which it has acted in the matter of the Backergunge murders, there can be no doubt that the notification withdrawing licenses for fire-arms has been a premature measure. A respectable resident of the district has informed the *Amrita Bazâr Patrika* that people who commit murders with fire-arms do not generally possess licenses. If this be a fact, withdrawal of licenses will do little good. It is also said that these crimes are generally committed by hirelings—men who come from other districts for the purpose of committing dacoity and other crimes. If so, Government would have done well to make a proper investigation in the interior of the district, before issuing the notification. It is true Sir Alexander Mackenzie consulted the District Magistrate, the District Judge and other officials, but almost all the officials now in Barisal are new to the place, and do not possess sufficient local experience. It is only the District Superintendent of Police who has been in the district for about a year, but Sir Alexander Mackenzie is said not to have invited him to the meeting. After all, His Honour would have done best, first to appoint a Commission of Enquiry, and then to take such measures as might have been considered necessary by such a Commission.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Sept. 17th, 1896.

7. A correspondent of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 17th September says that one Basanta Banwar, who occupies a house opposite to the Masjid in the chak, in the Bihar Subdivision, having erected an image of Ganesh in the house, and carried on its worship in the usual style, the Musalmans of the place objected and informed the authorities. The Subdivisional Officer, fearing an outbreak between Hindus and Musalmans, made a local investigation, and ordered the Hindus to remove the image. In revenge, all Hindu shop-keepers of the chak have closed their shops.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

8. The *Hitavadi* of the 18th September publishes the following report of a case of unlawful coolie-recruiting in Calcutta, which has been communicated to it:—

A young woman, fresh from her native village, and named Kaminisundari lately entered into the service of Babu Kamakhya Charan Mukharji as a female servant. She used to take out her master's youngest son every evening to the Sea'dah Railway maidan for an airing. A coolie-recruiter named Digam and

his associates, having come to know of this, began to hold out various inducements to her. On the 27th August last the woman went out to buy something, but did not return. A search was made, but to no purpose. On the 29th August, a man came to Kamakhya Babu with the news that he had found Kaminisundari in Mr. Mackertich's cooly depôt at Sealdah.

Kamakhya Babu made all haste to go to the Presidency Magistrate for help, but unfortunately could not find that officer. The next day he went to the Inspector of the Entally thana, but that officer refused to move in the matter without orders from the Magistrate. In the mean time, having received information that Kamakhya Babu was trying to rescue Kaminisundari, the recruiters kept removing her from one depôt to another.

Kamakhya Babu now came to know that an acquaintance of his was the pleader of Mr. Mackertich. He instantly went to this pleader and sought his help. The pleader kindly gave him a letter of recommendation which he took to Mr. Mackertich. On receiving this note, Mr. Mackertich courteously accompanied Kamakhya Babu to his pleader's house, and telling him to wait there, went to his depôt to look for the woman. At about 4 P.M. Kaminisundari was brought to her master in a very pitiable condition.

On being questioned, the woman said that the recruiters had taken her to the depôt with an inducement of good service; that while there she was not suffered to talk loudly or even to sneeze, and was kept a close prisoner, and that they mixed some intoxicating drug with her food, which kept her almost insensible till Monday.

If the poor woman's master had not made such efforts to rescue her, she would certainly have been taken to Assam as a cooly.

9. The same paper learns from a correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* that at Bhagalpur a boy of 17 named Subodh Chandra Majumdar was beaten by his mother.

The Bhagalpur police.

The mother also vowed that she would give him nothing to eat that day. The boy was very hungry and asked his aunt for rice. His aunt did not venture to give the boy rice from fear of his mother; but at last overcome by his importunities gave him some cooked herbs to eat. After finishing his meal, the boy went away, saying "I depart." He then went into his room and hung himself by a cloth from the roof. His groans attracted the notice of the household. The door was forced open, and medical aid was called in, but to no purpose. The police learnt all these particulars of the case, and yet let the matter end there, reporting that the boy was out of his wits. It is to be hoped that after a public accusation of this kind in the Press, the Police Superintendent of Bhagalpur will carefully enquire into the matter.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

10. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 18th September thanks the Lieutenant-Governor for his good intention in issuing the Barisal notification, but cannot approve of the measure itself. Withdrawal of licenses will, no

The Barisal notification condemned.

doubt, to a certain extent, put a stop to gun-shot murder, but murders in the Backergunge district will not cease, so long as their causes are not removed. As for weapons for committing murders, they will not be wanting, if the people are not deprived of knives, *daos*, sticks, napkins, spears, *lejás*, swords and bamboo guns. It is not also clear how the large number of unlicensed guns, which are mainly responsible for gun-shot murders, are to be captured. Little good will, indeed, be done by depriving only quiet and respectable people of their licensed fire-arms, while brutal and wicked men remain in possession of their unlicensed guns.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

With fire-arms disallowed and taken back, dacoits will be encouraged to loot zamindari cutcheries and attack boats carrying zamindars' money. Highway robbery, too, will become common during the ensuing *pūja* season, when people will be coming home with their families and their year's earnings. And the residents of the district, as well as their crops, will be at the mercy of wild animals. A gun possessed by a collecting panchayat here and a gun possessed by a collecting panchayat there will be of little use. In the Sundarbans Division, in particular, agriculture will become impossible. The authorities do not apparently know what a large number of wild animals are killed every year for the purpose of saving crops from their depredations. Besides, when every living

being in the world is possessed of his weapon of self-defence, has the Lieutenant-Governor acted justly by depriving his Backergunge people of their's? His notification will be to blame if anybody is now killed in Backergunge by a wild animal. It has, also, been unjust to treat and punish the people of a whole district, as criminals, for the crime of a few guilty persons.

Only one murder has been, up to the present time, committed with a licensed gun. And that is not a sufficient reason for capturing all such guns. It is said that the withdrawal of all licensed guns will facilitate the detection of those which are kept without a license. But is there no other means of bringing about this detection? The employment of one or two detective officers, solely with this object, with instructions to village panchayats and chaukidars to assist them, will make the work easy enough. Another means of getting back a large number of unlicensed guns, if not all of them, will be to announce a reward and pardon for all possessors of unlicensed guns who deposit them with the Government within a fixed time, and heavy punishment for those who fail to do so.

Gun-shot murders became common, only when it came to be believed that, committed in dark nights, such murders could not be brought home to their perpetrators. But their number decreased as soon as village *badmashes* were dealt with under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and thrown into jail. This shows that what is needed to suppress murder in Backergunge is to find out *badmashes*, and keep them in check by adequate punishments. The promiscuous issue of licenses to good as well as bad people enables many wicked men to possess themselves of fire-arms. Now that all licensed guns have been deposited with the Government, let guns be re-issued only to good and respectable men, who are certified as such by the District Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police, the Subdivisional Officers or the Deputy Magistrates. This will allay all the discontent which has been created by the notification, whilst Government's object will be fully gained.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

11. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 19th September draws the attention of the authorities to the large number of Limited Companies which have sprung up in the Rangpur district within the last three years, and whose sole object seems to be to cheat the poor, illiterate cultivators. The projectors of these Companies are generally shrewd men who find no difficulty in making dupes of the ignorant and illiterate people. All these Companies have been formed under Act VI of 1882, but the ignorance of the ordinary share-holders enables the Directors, who do as they please, to do without accounting under the provisions of that Act. There are people in Rangpur who see the swindling that is going on, but they do not try to save their illiterate countrymen, because they themselves or their relatives share the spoil.

BANGAVASI
Sept. 19th, 1896.

12. The *Bungavasi* of the 19th September has the following :—
The village people can live in great happiness if the village chaukidar be an honest man, the Police Sub-Inspector in charge of the *thana* a man of sagacity, and the zamindar good and benevolent. If over and above this, the District Magistrate be a man of wisdom and experience, the happiness of the people will be simply unbounded—as unbounded as it is said to have been during the Puranic age under the rule of Rama! If, however, the police be oppressive and highhanded, and the Magistrate insolent and lawless, the people must live in unmitigated misery in spite of your political agitation, your Congresses and Conferences, your interpellations and discussions, your budgets and your *Gazettes*—these are absolutely of no good to a Hindu family. The conquered can have no politics. They can entreat and weep, they can supplicate and worship, they can beg and serve—but they have, and they can have no politics!

In days gone by, the people of this country were not so effeminate as they have now become. In every village there were gymnasiums in which wrestling, fencing with *lathis* and other athletic exercises were regularly performed, and the youth of the village took a lively interest in them. Strong and stalwart young men were not then a rarity in the Bengal villages. The

people were not so helpless then as they are now, and they could successfully defend themselves against dacoits. The Musalman Government, moreover, was not ingenious enough to invent an Arms Act, and people could keep and use shields and swords, guns and spears without taking out passes for them. Now-a-days, however, the people have been disarmed, and have become quite helpless and effeminate. They have become fond of service, and they detest manly sports and exercises. Axes and shovels, fish-knives and brooms, are now the only instruments, defensive and offensive, to be met with in a Bengali house. Having given up all manly sports and exercises, they have now to depend entirely upon the police for the protection of their property and the honour of their women. It is, therefore, quite natural that the power of the police should have become so enormous and its insolence so unbearable. Police officers are, after all, human beings, full of human frailties and weaknesses. They are no more than ourselves free from the demoralising influence of luxury, and of the poverty which luxury has brought in its train. But while we cannot earn enough for our most urgent needs, and are plunged over head and ears in debt, police officers, with their unlimited power and endless opportunities, cause money to pour into their coffers from all quarters. Police officers cannot be expected to be versed in the teachings of the *Gita*, nor are they likely to have imbibed therefrom the noble inspiration of self-sacrifice and disinterestedness. They are made of the same stuff as we are, and their many wants force them to take bribes, which it is so easy for them to take. This evil is due, not so much to the moral constitution of the police officers, as to the nature of the training they receive, and to the peculiar combination of the circumstances in the midst of which they are placed. There are in every village, party strife and quarrel, zamindaris owned by many co-sharers, petty jealousies and insatiable vindictiveness. The police is a serviceable tool in the hands of scheming men, and is employed by them to further their individual and interested purposes. It is the zamindars and the raiyats that are at the root of all oppression; the police is only a paid instrument of oppression. We have never come across a police officer oppressing for the sake of oppressing. Under these circumstances, police oppression is not likely to cease, if we ourselves do not reform our character.

The Government is, no doubt, so to speak, the repository of all power, but the people have nevertheless some power which they can exercise within due limits. Every man, for instance, has his right of self-defence, and is quite at liberty to offer violence to others in the exercise of that right. If a man insults your wife in the street, you have the right to chastise him then and there. If anyone attempts to take your life, you can even kill him in self-defence. But helpless as we are, we cannot take the law into our own hands, even in such cases, and we give vent to our grievances in the Courts of Justice. The procedure followed there in administering justice is a complicated one, and we have become, by virtue of necessity, a lying and litigious people. We do not even hesitate to give out our domestic secrets in the Court room and before the public. It is this foolishness and pettiness on our part that has made the power of the police almost absolute.

On the whole, then, it is the bad training that we receive and the misguided manner in which we conduct ourselves—that is at the root of police oppression in this country. English education has not civilised us, it has made us puppets and tools in the hands of others. In everything we are at the bidding of the Government. There is nothing which we shrink from doing in feathering our nests and furthering our interests. As police officers, we do not hesitate to perpetrate acts of cruelty in order to secure convictions. As assessors of income-tax we levy the tax even from the poorest of the poor, in order to satisfy our official superiors and smooth the road to our promotion. As Deputy Magistrates we indiscriminately send prisoners to jail, with a view to bring ourselves to the favourable notice of the Government. We have no law, no standard of morality. The wish of the Government, even its whims and caprices, are law to us. Much of the oppression and tyranny in the country are of our own making, and it will not do to shift the whole burden of the blame on to the shoulders of the Government.

The policy followed by the Government makes it imperative on its part to place unbounded power in the hands of the police, to wink at its faults and

forgive its weaknesses. Otherwise, it is impossible for a foreign Government to carry on the administration here. The police is the chief instrument of governing the country, and the Government cannot but give it indulgence. This and our own cowardice, helplessness, disunion and selfishness have served to make the police the master of the situation. If we can reform ourselves, everything is sure to become right.

HITAISHI,
Sept. 22nd, 1896.

13. The Comilla correspondent of the *Hitaishi* of the 22nd September says that matters have become not less serious in Comilla than they are in Backergunge. *Badmashi*, *gundaism*, rioting, theft, dacoity and murder are in full swing in Comilla, and it is impossible to believe that the people of the place are living under British rule. *Lathials* may always be seen going about in gangs, and some case of theft or dacoity is sure to take place every night. People having any grudge against others employ *lathials* and *gundas*, whose services can be hired at a nominal price, to oppress their enemies. Large numbers of cases are instituted against *badmashes*, but in most of them the accused either escape scot-free or are very lightly punished. The failure of some serious charges of murder, &c., have greatly emboldened the men. It has become impossible to go out into the streets, or sleep at home at night with a sense of security.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
First and second fortnights of Sravan, 1303,
(B.S.)

14. The Brahmanbaria correspondent of the *Tripura Prakash* for the first and second fortnights of *Sravan* says that Babu Ramapati De, Fourth Munsif of the place, has come from Kasba, whither he came with quite a notoriety earned at Barisal. He played many pranks in Kasba, but Kasba is a place where anything can be done with impunity, witness Basak Babu who escaped scot-free. Ramapati Babu looks upon himself as somebody in the world, and has learnt well from his childhood how to behave with others. Anybody who comes to his Court is a thief. He abuses everybody, no matter whether he is a gentleman or a cooly, to his heart's content. It is not known whether Babu Kunja Mohan Chakravarti has submitted his affidavit to the Judge, which contains some disclosures about this Munsif.

The present Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria, Krishna Dayal Babu, is overbearing in his conduct, and slights even respectable pleaders and zamindars. He is in the habit of passing strictures on the educated men of the place in open Court. Government should have made some high-caste Hindu Subdivisional Officer of Brahmanbaria, which is inhabited mostly by respectable people.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.

15. The same paper has received very bad reports against Babu Govinda Chandra Basak, Munsif of Kasba in the Tippera district. He is said to particularly favour a certain pleader. There is an impression in Kasba that the party which engages that pleader is sure to win, though the pleader is not a remarkably able man.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

16. The *Charu Mihir* of the 14th September is dissatisfied with the reasons which have been assigned by the Officiating Sessions Judge of Mymensingh for disbelieving the story of the prosecution in the case of *Empress versus Kalam and Sharip*, who were charged with committing rape on a woman named Sukhada Chandalini. The fact of Sukhada's living at the time of the occurrence in the same house and in the same room with her mother's spiritual guide, Madhav Das Bairagi, and his mistress, neither of whom was less than 50 years of age, was taken by the Judge to be a proof that the complainant was a woman of an immoral character. The Judge, however, should have known that the fact just stated is not regarded by the low classes in this country in the light he took it. The Judge took the case to be a device on the part of the complainant to extort money from the accused. But, considering the generally inoffensive character of the Vaishnav sect, and that the complainant or any of her relations had no malice against either of the accused persons, who were residents of a different village,

the Judge's view of the matter was incorrect. Then, after having taken the deposition of only two witnesses for the prosecution, the Judge requested the Public Prosecutor to withdraw the case—a course which must have influenced the assessors, too, in forming a wrong view of the complainant's case. And not only have the accused been discharged, but the complainant, Sukhada, and her witness, Madhav Das Bairagi, have been ordered to be prosecuted for giving false evidence. The witness, Ganes Kurmi, too, has been ordered to be prosecuted under section 193 of the Penal Code for the sin of having, as a Gorakhpur man, who has been only four years in Mymensingh, spoken better Bengali than Hindi.

17. A correspondent of the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 17th September says that since the appointment of Mr. Babonau as the City Magistrate in Patna, that city has become a scene of quarrels and oppression by *badmashis*, who have become bold enough to molest peaceful residents in broad day-light. As the Subdivisional Officer of Barh, Mr. Babonau ruined the Bayley School there, and sowed the seeds of dissension between Hindus and Musalmans. Now he will do the same thing in the Patna City.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE
Sept. 17th, 1896.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 18th September says that the report which has been published in the *Bengalee* newspaper of the way in which Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb proceeded in the Writer-constable's case affords a fair illustration of the manner in which judicial officers are influenced in this country by other officers.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

The Deputy Magistrate, of his own motion, postponed the case; but the prayer of the constable's pleader, that the postponement should be for three weeks, was rejected. The constable's pleader prayed that as the constable was still in Government service, he should be released on his own bail. This prayer was rejected. The pleader then stood bail for his client.

At this stage, the Assistant Police Superintendent, Mr. Bamber, came into Court. He and the Deputy Magistrate conversed in a whisper for some time. Ramendra Babu then called the constable's pleader, and told him that if the case was postponed, the plaintiff's costs would have to be paid by the defendant. The pleader having objected to this, the order for postponement was cancelled. The Assistant Superintendent then assumed a furious attitude. He then and there ordered the constable's transfer to Hooghly. After this order was passed, the pleader withdrew his bail. But the Court then released the constable on his own bail.

The proceedings of both Ramendra Babu and Mr. Bamber in this case are not what they should have been. It is not easy to see why the Deputy Magistrate first refused to release the constable on his own bail, and then, after the order for his transfer, accepted such bail. It is not also easy to see why Mr. Bamber, all of a sudden, transferred the constable to Hooghly. It is a matter for rejoicing that Mr. Bamber, seeing his own mistake, has now withdrawn the charge against the constable. But he has threatened to punish the constable departmentally. The writer does not know whether the Lieutenant-Governor will countenance such injustice.

19. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 19th September is glad to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor has proposed an extension of jury trial to six or seven districts. But it is time that the system was introduced in every district in Bengal, and that the classes of cases, triable by juries, were also enlarged. Jurors, too, should not be used, as they are at present, like a class of criminals. Greater respect should be shown to them by sending them summonses more politely worded, by attaching greater weight to their verdicts, and generally by according to them a courteous treatment. If jury trial is to be a success, these points should be carefully attended to, or respectable people will not easily consent to serve as jurors.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

20. Referring to the Chief Presidency Magistrate's decision in a case in which one, Mr. Mackenzie, of 51, Park Street, was charged with negligently firing a gun, and thereby wounding one Giris Chandra Singh, the *Sanjivani* of the 19th September observes that there is no doubt that Giris Chandra was

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

The proposed extension of jury trial.

The police case against Mr. Mackenzie.

wounded by a gun-shot. If the accused was not the man who wounded him, the other man who fired a gun at the same time ought to have been prosecuted. Mackenzie was acquitted, but the other man was not traced. The Magistrate did not also consider it a serious offence to carelessly fire a gun in a street, and let off the accused with a warning. Would the case have been so easily settled, if a European had been wounded in this way? So long natives were being killed and wounded by Europeans with gun-shot outside Calcutta, but such accidents are taking place pretty frequently now even in the heart of the metropolis.

(d)—Education.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 4th, 1896.

21. Referring to the proposed transfer of the Second Master of the Chittagong school to the Noakhali school, the *Sansodhini* of the 4th September observes that it cannot understand how the Second teacher of the Noakhali school, who is not a competent mathematician, will be able to act in the place of the Second Master of the Chittagong school, who is going to be transferred to the former school. The Chittagong climate is not certainly favourable to the cultivation of the mathematical faculty. The Chittagong school has all along shown good results in the University Examinations. But the proposed arrangement is sure to act prejudicially to its interests.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 11th, 1896.

22. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 11th September complains that the Principal of the Chittagong College has done great injustice to the law students. The latter have always been shown some special favour in the matter of the payment of their fees. They have never been regular in paying their fees, and have been granted certificates whenever they have paid up their dues. The law lecturers, too, have always been more or less lax in realizing fees from the students, and the present law lecturer, too, has not been more strict in this matter. This year, however, the present Principal suddenly ordered the law students, on the 24th August last, to pay off their dues the next day. He told some of the students, who went to him, that fees would be accepted up to the 27th instant, and said to the law lecturer that the names of the defaulters would not be struck off before the 31st August. Many names were, however, struck off on the 29th. This is certainly a great injustice. The students ought to have been given, at least, a month's notice.

The editor observes that the admission fee for the law classes has been raised to five rupees. Those who cannot afford to go to Calcutta to prosecute their studies, get themselves admitted to the law classes in the Chittagong College. A monthly fee of five rupees is heavy enough for them, and they are not in a position to bear an admission fee of five rupees. Why this severity towards the law students of the Chittagong College?

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

23. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 18th September says that the cause of education in the Goalpara district in Assam has been suffering since the district of Kamrup was added to the jurisdiction of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Goalpara. That officer can now hardly inspect the middle vernacular schools once a year. Three to four hundred students pass the lower primary examination every year from the Kamrup district while only seventy or eighty students pass that examination from the Goalpara district. Another cause of the educational superiority of Kamrup to Goalpara is that the gurus there are all men who have passed the middle vernacular or the guru-training examination. The pay of the gurus is also too small to attract able and educated men. While the teachers are uneducated, the text-books are hard. Kesav Babu's *Asubodh*, for instance, is the text-book for the lower primary examination in Assam. This book was the text-book for the upper primary examination in Bengal, and is much too hard for candidates for the lower primary examination, who are generally children of 7 or 8.

HITAVADI.

24. Another correspondent of the same paper says that non-graduate teachers are perhaps the most miserable beings on earth. Increase of pay is out of the question for them. Increase of expenditure has compelled Government to reduce its grants-in-aid, and the school authorities have reduced the pay of the teachers.

The teachers have not only to teach, but also to do the private work of the Secretary of the School and the members of the School Committee.

An experienced non-graduate teacher can teach better and maintain stricter discipline than a raw graduate teacher. Already there is a standing order in some divisions that every school must have one graduate teacher, as well as two teachers who have passed the First Arts examination. It will be a great boon to non-graduate teachers if every school is directed to keep also two experienced non-graduate teachers. Sir Alfred Croft is on the eve of his retirement. Will he kindly rule that when a teachership falls vacant, a lower teacher, though not a graduate, should be promoted to that post, if found competent? Will the able and experienced School Inspector, Babu Radhikaprasanna Mukharji, put in a good word for these unfortunate teachers?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

25. The *Sansodhini* of the 28th August complains that the Chittagong Municipality is wasting money on its water-supply fad. The natural fountain water of Chittagong is the best drink for the people, but the Municipality is not satisfied with it. Thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Municipality has given up the idea of constructing water-works, but it has lately tried another fad on the people to their cost. At the cost of about Rs. 1,500 it sank thirty tube-wells in the town, but none of them has been able to draw water. This money would have been better spent if the Municipality had employed it in digging two tanks, one in Baksir Hât and another in Firingi Bazâr. The money, it is true, has been paid out of the *khas mahal* treasury, but it is nevertheless public money ill spent.

SANSODHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1896.

26. The *Sansodhini* of the 4th September objects to the proposed employment of an Engineer by the Chittagong Municipality, on a pay of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 a month. An Overseer on a pay of Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 is good enough for Chittagong, and an Engineer should not be employed on a large pay, when the streets cannot be watered and lighted, and the water-supply in Baksir Hât cannot be improved for want of money. It is rumoured that the Municipality is anxious to provide Tarak Babu, Overseer of Comilla, with a comfortable berth, and hence a new post is wanted. The rate-payers should strongly oppose the proposed employment of an Engineer by the Chittagong Municipality.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 4th, 1896.

27. Correspondents of the *Charu Mihir* of the 14th September write as follows:—

Water-scarcity in a village in the Mymensingh district.

(1) Severe water-scarcity prevails in Gopalpur and the neighbouring places in the Mymensingh district, owing to the scanty rainfall. The river water is undrinkable on account of the steeping of jute in it.

(2) Scarcity of water prevails in Tarail, in the Tangail Subdivision of the Mymensingh district. There is only one tank in the village, which is fast silting up, and which is used for both drinking and bathing purposes. What is wanted is a re-excavation of the tank and the sinking of a well in the southern quarter of the village.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

28. One, Golam Muhammad, writing from Barasat in the 24-Parganas district, in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 19th September says that after much enquiry and deliberation, the authorities of the Baraset Municipality

The Barasat Municipality in the 24-Parganas.

have hit upon *pucca* privies as the only true remedy for the insanitary condition of the town, and have, accordingly, directed the residents to construct such privies in their houses. With rice selling at four rupees a maund and their thatches without straw, the poorer rate-payers do not know how to carry out this order of the authorities. Besides, rate-payers whose circumstances did not allow of their paying any rates, or who paid a quarterly rate of only one anna or one anna and-a-half, will henceforward be assessed to a latrine-tax of not less than two annas a month each. It is sheer stupidity on the part of the Municipal Commissioners of Barasat to demand *pucca* privies, when there is not a single good tank in the Municipality to supply the rate-payers with drinking

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

water, no drainage to carry away the filth of the town, and no clearing of the jungle which gives shelter to tigers.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

The water-supply question.

29. The *Bangavasi* of the 19th September advises the Government to place sufficient funds in the hands of the District Boards, so that they may spend the money on the digging and repairing of tanks which have not been consecrated to the gods, and which will not be so consecrated. The District Boards may grow fish in these tanks, and recover their money by selling the fish. After the money has been realized, the District Boards will give back the possession of these tanks to their owners. In this way the Government will be able to improve village water-supply and sanitation, without imposing a tax on the people. The Bengalis are not likely to prosper, without the improvement of the Bengal villages. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a sympathetic ruler. It is the earnest prayer of the writer that he will take the above suggestion into his favourable consideration.

CHINSURA VARTA-
VAHA,
Sept. 20th, 1896.

30. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 20th September has the following with reference to the proposed scheme of supplying the Municipalities on both banks of the Hooghly up to Naihati and Bansbaria, respectively, with filtered water-supply. The observations of the writer are confined to the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality:—

The question which naturally suggests itself to us is: Is there really any want of water felt in the towns and villages which are situated on the bank of a river? If not, what is the necessity of constructing water-works for the purpose of supplying them with water? Most of the places under the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality are situated on the bank of the river, and in the interior there are tanks. The river water is generally used for drinking, and the tank water for washing purposes. When the tanks are dried up, the people have to depend entirely on river water, and in that case they have to incur some additional trouble and expense in fetching this water, the expense rarely, if ever, exceeding two rupees a month in a family. Those, however, that live a little further off from the river, have to incur a larger expense, but the number of such people is very small. On the whole, there is no want of water in the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality, and no one under its jurisdiction has been known to have died for want of water. When the rains fail, there is certainly water-scarcity, but scarcity of water is a different thing from absolute want of water. When this scarcity of water takes place, people have no doubt to undergo great trouble and expense in getting water, and they will have no objection to the scheme of filtered water-supply, if they can get it for the money which they have to spend in fetching water from the river.

There would have been, of course, no objection to the water-supply scheme, if the river water had been polluted and dangerous to health. But experience has shown that the water of the river near Hooghly and Chinsura is pure and free from anything obnoxious. "So far up the river as Chinsura," said Dr. Macnamara in 1862-63, "there is perhaps very faint evidence in the increased quantity of common salt of intermixture with the water of the tidal wave, but the organic impurity is not increased, and the contamination, if any, is not such as to affect the question of the fitness or otherwise of the water for consumption." In 1892, Dr. Gregg observed:—The sanitary condition of the river Hooghly has greatly improved since Dr. Macnamara's analyses were made; because the night-soil of the Municipalities above Calcutta, which used, in Dr. Macnamara's time, to be thrown into the river, is now trenched, and greater care is exercised in preventing carcasses of animals, &c., from being thrown into the river." (*Calcutta Gazette*, July 27, 1892). But why quote scientific opinion to prove the purity of the water of the Hooghly? This water is being used for a long time, but its use has never been known to have caused the outbreak of an epidemic or its spread.

Want of water is felt rather keenly in such places as Dharampur and Khamarparha, which are comparatively at a distance from the river. There are tanks in these villages, and generally a fresh water-tank is set apart in every village for the supply of drinking water. When the rains fail, these tanks become exhausted, and their water is polluted. It is then that people have to fetch water from the river. The well-to-do either employ men to fetch water

or purchase it at two annas for every two *kalsis*, while the poor fetch water themselves. It is these villages that stand most in need of water-supply.

We have not yet been fully acquainted with the details of the proposed water-supply scheme. No details were submitted at the last meeting of the Municipality. All that we know about the scheme is this: A main pipe will be laid alongside the river from Bally to Bansbaria, and every Municipality will take water from it at its own cost, the cost of laying the main pipe being proportionately shared by the Municipalities concerned. We do not think that there is house-connection in contemplation. Most probably, pipes will be laid in the main roads and streets, and hydrants will be set up in these roads. People will have, therefore, to fetch water all the same from these hydrants, instead of from the river. Water is not likely to be available in these hydrants throughout the day. This is exactly the case in the Maniktala Municipality, and we fear this will also be the case in the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality. It may be of some good to the people if they get the benefit of house-connections. And the proposed water-supply scheme will be absolutely of no use to the people, if there be no house-connections. Hydrants are likely to be set up at long intervals. People will have to fetch water, or have water fetched from a distance. There will be crowds near these hydrants, and it will cause people less delay to fetch water from the river. Water, too, will not be available throughout the day. It is not an easy affair to supply filtered water to an area twenty-four miles long and two miles broad. The proposed scheme will not in any way benefit the people who live on the river banks, and it is these people that will pay the lion's share of taxation. It may benefit such villages as Dharampur and Khamarparha which pay the least amount of taxation. It may be quite right to improve the sanitary condition of poor villages at the cost of the rich, but generosity has its limits, and it is not always just and proper to cross those limits. These villages will be served far better and at less cost to their richer sisters if fresh water-tanks are dug or re-excavated in them.

Now comes the question of taxation. The rate of taxation will depend upon the cost of the water-works. At the most favourable computation the rate is not likely to be less than 6 or 7 *per cent.* We are already paying Municipal rates to the tune of $9\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* The addition of a water-rate of 6 or 7 *per cent.* will make the burden of taxation quite unbearable. People will have to fetch water from hydrants. Their expense on the head of fetching water will not decrease. There will, however, be no objection to the scheme, if the water-tax, *plus* the expense of fetching it, does not exceed the cost of purchasing water at a time of water scarcity.

The question was raised at the last meeting of the Municipality, but the discussion of the scheme has been postponed to the 5th October. We ask the Commissioners to thresh out the scheme, and examine it in all its bearings, before they pass their opinion one way or another. It is upon their opinion that the welfare of thousands depends. We understand that the Commissioners were only asked to say if they were willing to accept the proposal of a joint scheme of water-supply. But before they answer the question, the Commissioners should ascertain whether the scheme will at all be of any good to the rate-payers. They cannot answer the question before they know the cost of carrying out the scheme and the rate of taxation likely to be imposed on the people. The question should be calmly and carefully discussed.

We conclude our observations by quoting Mr. Cooke's opinion on the subject:—

"I am far from being sentimental over the wrongs of the people, but I am bound to say that I viewed, with some misgiving, the prospect held out by the proposed additional rate; it will fall heavily on the least prosperous classes, and would afford solid ground for the adverse criticism of Government."
(*Calcutta Gazette*, July 27th, 1892.)

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

31. The *Sanjivani* of the 19th September complains that, on the 28th August last, a man presented himself before a third-class ticket stall in the Sealdah Station, before the Goalundo mail train started, and asked for a ticket for Sunumganj. The man paid the "ticket babu" five rupees as fare for the

Malpractices in the Sealdah Railway Station.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

whole journey, but the latter returned him three rupees and gave him a ticket for Goalundo. The fare for Golundo being less than two rupees, the man naturally asked for the balance. The "ticket babu" did not return the balance, and slapped the man in the face into the bargain. As he was secure within his enclosure, the injured man could not pay him back in his own coin. Railway passengers cannot afford to postpone their journey, in order to take such offenders to task, and the latter grow consequently more and more insolent and audacious.

(h)—General.

SANSODHINI,
Aug. 28th, 1896.

32. Kutapdia is a small island south of Chittagong, and is under the jurisdiction of the Government *khas mahal*. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 28th August

The Kutapdia embankment.

complains that this year the embankment, which is every year thrown up to keep out the sea, has not yet been constructed. If it is not constructed within a fortnight, the island is sure to be flooded, causing loss, not only to its inhabitants, but also to the Government in the shape of loss of land-revenue.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Sept. 16th, 1896.

33. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 16th September says that, acting according to the suggestion made in this paper some

The Murshidabad Court of Wards.

time ago, the Murshidabad Court of Wards has decided to dispense with the services of one of the two tutors of Kumar Asutosh Nath, a Ward under its charge. But the tutor, whose services will be dispensed with, is the native and not the European tutor. It will be unjust to saddle the Kumar's estate with the salary of a highly-paid tutor, simply for the purpose of providing for a European. The education of the Kumar can be superintended by a native tutor, as efficiently as, and certainly more cheaply than, by a European tutor. Moreover, as the Kumar's term of tutelage is drawing to a close, and he, therefore, devotes the greater part of his time to learning zamindari business, it will be sheer waste of money to keep a highly-paid European tutor for his general education.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI.

34. The same paper says that every Bengali will be glad if the news about Mr. Cotton's appointment to the Chief Com-

Mr. Cotton's appointment to the
Assam Chief Commissionership.

missionership of Assam proves correct. Of all the European officials now serving in the country,

Mr. Cotton is the most popular. It is hoped that his appointment to Assam will be the stepping-stone to the Bengal *musnud*.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 18th September says that income-tax assessors are probably under an impression that the more they

An unjust income-tax assessment.

can increase the income of Government from that

source, the better will be their chance of promotion. They therefore often make unjust assessments. The burden of proving that he is not liable to the assessment made now, lies on the assessee. This is very unfair. The burden of proof should properly lie on the assessor. This arrangement will have the effect of making those officers more cautious in the work of assessment. Babu Devendranath Chatterji of Kandi writes to us, as follows, about the unfair assessment which has been made in his case :—

I am the chief officer of the *thakurbari* of the Paikpara Raj family at Kandi. I receive a monthly pay of Rs. 30. I have no other income from my post. My income from my paternal property at my native village Kuchra, within the Basirhat Subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, will not exceed Rs. 25 to 30 a year. But a notice was issued to me by Babu Harachandra Ghosh, Deputy Collector of Murshidabad, requiring me to pay an income-tax of 7 rupees and 8 annas within 7 days. I went to Murshidabad accompanied by three or four witnesses from Kandi. I asked the Deputy Collector for information about the statement of my income from different sources furnished by the Assessor. The Assessor said that the statement was confidential, and could not be produced. My deposition was then taken on oath. I stated the truth. The Assessor then cross-examined me. He asked me how many days I dined out in the month. I replied that I would have kept an account if I had known beforehand that I should be assessed to the income-tax. He then asked me whether I did not receive my share of the income from my paternal property. I replied in the negative, saying that the whole income was taken by my elder brother. The Assessor then asked me whether I went to my paternal house. I answered

"yes, I remain there for 3 or 4 days in the year." The Assessor urged that that amounted to my receiving my share of my paternal income. I replied that, for the matter of that, I went also to my uncle's house and to my father-in-law's house. Judgment was reserved. But I have since received a notice, requiring me to pay a tax of 7 rupees and 8 annas within a month. The Deputy Collector told me that he could accept my statement of my income from my paternal property, only if it was supported by the evidence of witnesses from my native village. Fancy, the reasonableness of this order! Murshidabad is more than 170 miles from my native village. I have already incurred an expense of 13 or 14 rupees on account of my suit. An appeal will cost 10 or 12 rupees. What is a poor man like me to do?

36. The same paper says that Mr. Cotton's promotion to the Chief Commissionership of Assam will give satisfaction to everybody.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 19th September observes that the people of Bengal are elated with joy at the appointment of Mr. Cotton to the Chief Commissionership of Assam. Mr. Cotton has served in Bengal for a long time and is acquainted with the ins and outs of the cooly recruiting system. It may, therefore, be expected that, as Chief Commissioner of Assam, he will do something to alleviate the misery of the tea-garden coolies.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 19th, 1893.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

38. In continuation of the article on the Bengal Tenancy Act, which appeared in its last issue (Report on Native Papers for 19th September, paragraph 29), the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 15th September says that under Act VIII of 1869 a raiyat acquired occupancy right in a holding only if he was in possession of that particular holding for twelve successive years; but under the present Tenancy Act, a raiyat who has dwelt in a village for twelve successive years, acquires an occupancy right in any land he holds in that village, even if he holds it only for a year. This is very advantageous to the raiyat, but very prejudicial to the zamindar. When introducing the Permanent Settlement, Government made over the proprietorship of the land to the zamindars, and since then the zamindars had been letting out their lands to raiyats, under whatever system appeared best to them. Act X of 1859, first struck a blow at their rights, by creating the occupancy right. In doing good to the raiyats, the legislators have perpetrated a great wrong against the zamindars.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 15th, 1896.

The provisions of the Tenancy Act relating to the enhancement of the rent of occupancy holdings are equally advantageous to the raiyats and disadvantageous to the zamindars. Previous to the passing of that Act, zamindars let out khas lands and lands whose fertility had been reduced in consequence of sand deposits thereon, at first at nominal rents, and then when the lands improved, permanent arrangements were made with raiyats at enhanced rents. Such things are impossible under the Tenancy Act. The section relating to the enhancement of the rent of occupancy holdings has inflicted great loss on the zamindars and should be amended.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th September has the following:—

Legislative interference with religious endowments.

The majority of Hindus are opposed to the new fangled scheme of management of the Hindu *devottar* property. The Government of India knows this very well, and declined to interfere with the existing arrangement so long as the preponderance of Hindu opinion on the subject was not on the side of the agitators. Depending upon this last qualifying clause in the decision of the Government of India, the Babu agitators of Bengal have again come to the front. The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji, nothing daunted by the last reply of the Bengal Government to his interpellation on the subject, has now drafted a Religious Endowments Bill, in which he provides for the appointment of a Committee for the management of *devottar* property. A Committee seems to be in the eye of the Babus the panacea for all evils. And Babu Surendranath's Committee will consist of zamindars and English-educated Babus, who will take into

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CHANDRIKA,
Sept. 24th, 1896.

their own hands the management of all religious endowments, the *mahunts* and *mollus* owning and acknowledging their control.

We do not know whether the Musalman community will accept a proposal like the above, but we are quite sure that the Hindu community will not have anything to do with it. The *Hindoo Patriot* says that all educated Hindus are calling for the amendment of the existing law regarding the management of religious endowments, but in the same breath our contemporary says that there should be agitation over the question all over the country. Why so much agitation, if all educated Hindus are in favour of the proposed change? Is the agitation necessary, in order to win the support of the uneducated Hindus? The *Patriot's* audacity is truly wonderful. He does not hesitate to say that all educated Hindus are on his side. How does he know this? Has he seen through the minds of all educated Hindus with the help of Rontgen's rays? Did all educated Hindus join in the agitation against the existing management of religious endowments? Did not many newspapers, including a few printed in English, oppose the agitators? Did not Raja Sasisekharewar Rai advise the Viceroy not to interfere with the present arrangement, and was not his opinion echoed by many other educated and respectable Hindus? The *Hindoo Patriot*, we have no hesitation in saying, is wrong. All educated Hindus are not in favour of an official interference with the existing arrangement. The *Patriot* is equally wrong when he says that the existing law, regarding the management of religious endowments, is of no use. No one has ever sought the help of the existing law, in order to bring offending *mahunts* and *mollas* to justice. The greatest authority on Hindu law in the Calcutta High Court wrote articles in our paper last time when the agitation over the religious endowments question was raised, showing that the existing law was sufficient for the purpose and that the proposed change was not likely to bear good fruit. The Government should on no account be allowed to interfere with any institution in this country, having the least connection with the religion of the people. In the eye of the *Patriot* those that hold this opinion, may not be "educated Hindus," but the number of such Hindus is countless as will shrink from the scheme proposed by Surendra Babu. In this matter, the opinion of those who have an interest in *devottar* property ought to weigh with the Government. The opinion of the Babus is of no consequence whatever.

The *Hindoo Patriot* urges Sir Charles Elliott's opinion in his favour. The opinion of a rash and hasty ruler like Sir Charles Elliott is not worth anything. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is an experienced and far-sighted ruler, and it is expected that he will not allow the existing arrangement to be interfered with. It is because the *Patriot* knows this well enough that he frets and grumbles.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 18th September has heard that the Gaikwar of Baroda proposes to spend three lakhs of rupees on the reception of the Viceroy in his State. Everybody knows how Government and its Political Agents treat the Native Princes; nor can it be said that the latter are not at all sorry for such treatment. The financial condition of the Native States is not also satisfactory. Under these circumstances, it is not right to spend so much money on an outward demonstration.

If the Gaikwar really intends to spend so much money in honour of the Viceroy, he should spend it on some work which will be beneficial to the country. Scarcity is imminent in all parts of India, and is already felt in some places. The Viceroy will, therefore, do well to direct the Gaikwar to spend the money on the relief of distress. If he does this, the country will offer him its heartfelt gratitude. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has forbidden expenditure on his reception, and the Viceroy, too, should do the same.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SANSODHINI,
Sept. 4th, 1896.

41. The *Sansodhini* of the 4th September contradicts the statement made in the Government weekly report on the prospects of crops, that up to the 24th August rice was selling at

thirteen seers per rupee in Chittagong. The source from which this official information is derived, is certainly untrustworthy. Even in June, rice could not be had at thirteen seers per rupee. The Chittagong people will be thankful to the Magistrate if he can procure them rice at this price. It may be true that up to 24th August rice was selling at *Kanchi* thirteen seers (= *pucca* ten seers) per rupee, but in the beginning of September rice was selling at six rupees and new *salai* rice at four rupees per maund.

A correspondent of the same paper writes that the prospects of crops are quite hopeless in Satkania thana, in the Chittagong district. The month of Bhadra has passed away without rain. Extreme drought prevails, and the prospects of the winter crops are hopeless. There has been a sixteen-anna *aus* crop, but that is not likely to last the people the whole year. Want of rain has made cultivation almost impossible. The rice market is rising every day, and coarse rice is selling at eight seers per rupee. There is no village in which people are getting two meals every day. Most are going without food for two or three days together. Famine is impending. The sugarcane crop is also sure to fail. For the last three years this sugarcane crop is withering away every year—why, no one can tell. There has also been a scarcity of fish in Chittagong. The fishermen are in the habit of destroying small fish and the spawn in the *sankha* river. If this objectionable practice is not soon put an end to, Chittagong is destined to be deprived of fish.

42. The *Charu Mihir* of the 14th September hopes that, as in most places, rice is now selling at a higher price than four rupees a maund, the authorities will favourably consider the memorial which the menial servants of Government are said to be preparing to submit for a temporary increment of their pay, similar to that granted to them in other years of scarcity.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

43. The same papersays that there were good showers in most places in the Mymensingh district during the last fortnight, which will repair much of the damage already done to the *aman* crop. The river is rising, and it is hoped that the price of rice, which is now selling at four rupees five annas to five rupees six annas per maund, will soon come down.

CHARU MIHIR.

The following accounts have been received from correspondents:—

(1) *Netrokona*.—Signs of scarcity have again made their appearance in Netrokona this year. Good rice is selling at Rs. 6-8 a maund and bad rice at Rs. 5-12.

(2) *Salhia*.—The rainfall has been scanty and insufficient for agricultural purposes. The price of rice is daily rising, and scarcity prevails throughout the district. People are already so deeply involved in debt that they cannot get any more loans from the money-lenders. It is strange that the zamindars are yet indifferent to the situation. Cannot some zamindar of this district initiate the example of Nawab Ahsanulla Bahadur of Dacca, who has purchased a large stock of rice, and is selling it at 11 seers per rupee?

(3) *Gopalpur*.—The order of the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail, prohibiting the steeping of the jute in the portion of the river between Dhopakandi and Suti, is causing hardship to the raiyats, who have water nowhere else for steeping jute. In consequence of this order, the poor cultivators are obliged to let their jute crop wither on the fields, and that at a time when rice is selling at Rs. 6 a maund. Most people cannot manage to get two meals of rice a day. A resident of Suti told one of his neighbours the other day that he and his children could get no food on the preceding day. Such instances of starvation are not rare. The correspondent can prepare a list of such cases. The villages within the jurisdiction of the Gopalpur police-station will, before long, experience an outbreak of cholera brought on by scarcity of good drinking water. All artificial reservoirs have completely dried up, and the river water is quite unfit for use, in consequence of the steeping of jute in it. The prospects of jute and paddy are exceedingly gloomy.

(4) *In Asujia*.—The condition of the crops is exceedingly bad. Rice is selling at Rs. 5-4 to Rs. 5-8 a maund. In view of the prospect before them, the sale of paddy and rice is stopped, and prices are therefore, expected to go up still higher.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

44. The *Sanjivani* of the 19th September has the following:—

The impending scarcity of food
in the country.

There has not been sufficient rain this year. The month of Aswin has only commenced, and the rivers are falling fast. They have not this year overflowed their banks and watered the neighbouring fields. The sky too has not yielded sufficient rain, and the paddy plants have withered in the fields. East Bengal is the emporium of rice, but the paddy crop has failed, and an outcry for food has been raised even there. The price of rice is rising every day, and we wonder how people are managing to live. In Backergunge, the granary of Bengal rice is selling at Rs. 5 per maund. *Aus* is selling at Rs. 4-8 in Tippera, Rs. 4-6 in Chittagong Rs. 5 in Mymensingh and Rs. 4 in Noakhali. In some places rice is selling at so high a price as Rs. 5-8 per maund. The lower middle classes are actually in great distress. In west Bengal the outturn of rice is more satisfactory, but rice is never grown there in a sufficiently large quantity, and this year the harvest has not been as good as in other years. In Orissa, the crops have been destroyed by floods, and thousands of people have been left without any food. In Bihar, famine has already made its appearance. There is no prospect of a more than a two-anna crop in that part of the country. There was a little rain last week in Bihar, but that is not likely to do any good to the famished and withering crop. In the North-Western Provinces famine is already stalking like a spectre. About four or five thousand weavers of Benares have applied to the Magistrate to save them from starvation, by reducing the prices of food stuffs. The *Observer* of Cawnpore draws a heart-rending picture of the famine. The labourers are thrown out of work. Those who used to earn ten or twelve annas per day cannot now earn more than one anna. They have been reduced to skeletons for want of food. Many have opened *anna-chhatras* and are supplying thousands with cooked food, but thousands are still starving. People are in great distress in Bundelkhand. Many are working on the relief works, but many more are starving. In Jhansi common wheat is selling at 8 seers per rupee. In such places as Datia, wheat is selling at 6 or 6½ seers per rupee. The rains have failed in the Panjab also and famine is impending there.

Water-scarcity, too, is threatening the people. There was not sufficient rain this year to fill the tanks and other reservoirs of water, and the little water that is still in them is most likely to be exhausted, as soon as the winter season commences. Sir Alexander Mackenzie should not lose time to give effect to his water-supply scheme. And as this cannot be done without amending the existing law, His Honour should move the legal machinery immediately after the Puja vacation. In the meantime, let the Government and the District Boards take steps to alleviate the impending water-scarcity.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

45. Correspondents of the *Bangavasi* of the 19th September complain

The prospects of crops in Bengal.

of scarcity in several parts of Bengal. Rain is wanted in Chatmohur, in the Pubna district. The *aman* crop is withering away for want of rain. Cultivation is at a standstill in Patgram, in the Jalpaiguri district, for want of rain. Crops are withering away. There is no water to steep jute plants in. Paddy is selling at thirteen rupees or fourteen rupees per *bish*. Jute is selling at rupees twelve per *tanji*. In Kurhulia, in the Faridpur district, there has been a small outturn of the *aus* crop, and the hope of an *aman* crop has been given up. Scarcity has broken out. Rice is selling at six seers per rupee, and is not always available; the customers are too many for the commodity. Famine has broken out in Harischool, in the Dacca district. Many have to starve for two or three days together. The beggars are going without food, and many are living on pulses and the seeds of grass. The *aus* crop has been all but destroyed, and there is no hope of a good *aman* crop. There has been an eight-anna jute crop. It will go hard with the people if the Government does not come to their rescue in time. This is the time for the collection of rents and the paying of the land-revenue. The *rai*yats will be hard put to it if no laxity is shown in the realization of these demands.

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46. A correspondent of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd

Prospects of crops in Jessore.

September says that scarcity has broken out in Magwa, in the Jessore district. New *aus* rice is selling at *Kanchi* twelve or thirteen seers per rupee. The *aman* paddy has withered away.

47. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd September warns both the

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The outlook.

Government and the people of the severe food and water-scarcity, which is sure to visit the country in the next hot season. Water-scarcity has already begun to be felt. It will grow worse by the ensuing cold season, and not a drop of water will be left by *Chaitra* and *Baisakh*. Scarcity of food and water will also bring on various diseases, and the prospect before the country is such as to make one tremble in fear. It is hoped that the officials under Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not follow Sir Charles Elliott's policy of suppressing reports of distress, but will render prompt assistance wherever needed. Government should issue orders to the officials to report wherever signs of distress make their appearance. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and, in fact, all Provincial Governors should look sharp this year. It will be idle to censure Government for the past misuse of the famine funds. The country is now concerned about the present and the future. Measures should be adopted to avert the impending calamity and prevent loss of life. It will be useless to depend entirely on the District Boards with their insufficient funds. Government has squandered away the famine fund, and it will be its duty to find means to prevent the impending distress. Nor should the people themselves remain idle and indifferent. They should do their best to help the Government in the task before it.

48. The same paper says that the village Berugram, in the Burdwan

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CHANDRIKA,

Floods in the Burdwan district.

district, has been thrice flooded during the present rainy season. The last of the floods has done greater damage than its predecessors, having risen to a very high level. The entire village is ruined and the villagers are in the utmost distress. Prompt steps should be taken to carry out Government's orders about constructing an embankment. In the meantime, the Collector of Burdwan should give relief to the suffering people from the Boinchee Biharilal Fund.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

49. The *Charu Mihir* of the 14th September regrets to find that the

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 14th, 1896.

Prospects of the coming Congress.

mufassal people have not yet busied themselves in collecting funds for the next sitting of the Congress. In Calcutta, some friends of the Congress appear to be anxious to cut off their connection with it. But the secession of even one man will be a loss to the Congress!

Those who are trying to sever their connection with the Congress should remember that they have not been in any way injured by the Congress, and they should not, therefore, withdraw from it their support. The Congress has not receded from them, and they should not recede from the Congress. If they have differences with other Congress men, they should endeavour to come to a settlement.

As for the mufassal people, they are entreated not to mind what is going on in Calcutta. The mufassal must this year devote its whole energy to the Congress. Money must be collected before the *Durga Puja* vacation.

50. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 18th September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI
Sept. 18th, 1896.

Devottar property in the Chittagong district.

One Adhamdas Vaishnav, an inhabitant of Tangibari, within the Munshiganj thana of the Vikrampur pargana, and a pilgrim to Chandranath, has been residing in my house for some days. Finding him very anxious to bathe in the Barabakunda, I sent him to-day to that place with a guide. The Vaishnav pilgrim went to the mohunt and pleaded his inability to pay the prescribed fee. He even fell at the mohunt's feet. But the inexorable mohunt insulted him, and then retired into the inner apartment of his house. The poor man came away almost broken-hearted, and I could not restrain my tears as he told me with tears in his eyes, of his grievous disappointment.

Even after so much agitation—nay, even after the decision of the High Court—the mohunts are oppressing the pilgrims. As it is not possible for pilgrims to bring suits against the powerful mohunts at every step, all Hindus should unite to devise a remedy against these oppressions.

The present mohunt of Barabakunda has succeeded his father in the mohuntship. Has anybody ever enquired how the son became the father's disciple, and then his successor in the mohuntship? He has not obtained probate of the will,

in virtue of which he holds the office. The mohunt has now begun to purchase property in his mother's name, instead of in the name of the god. During the seven or eight years he has been mohunt, the affairs of the temple have reached the worst possible condition. The worship is conducted even more shabbily than it was under his father. No one is fed at the shrine, but the priest and the servants attached to it. The expenditure at this shrine is even less than at Chandranath. This mohunt's chief business seems to be to hoard money. Has the Hindu community of Chittagong or the Chittagong Endowment Committee ever cared to enquire what use is made of the income of the shrines? If the mohunts are suffered to lead immoral lives, how can lay people be blamed for misconducting themselves? Will not the educated and respectable public of Chittagong attend to the matter?

Will the generous Government, too, remain indifferent in the matter? Can anybody accuse Government of interfering with religion if it only sets itself to put a stop to the oppression by the mohunts? The Chittagong Endowment Committee seems to be in a deep sleep. The local officers are more or less supporters of the mohunts, and that is why the latter escape with impunity! Will Mr. Skrine look to the matter? It need hardly be said that in his office there are men who are friends of the mohunts. I intend to say more on the subject on a future occasion.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 18th, 1896.

51. The same paper calls upon those who charge the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee with having entered into an unholy compact with Mr. Risley to support Government measures to produce, if they have any manliness or sense of justice, the evidence on which they base their charge. The editor's own examination of the so-called evidence, on which these men rely, has only proved their malice and meanness.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 19th, 1896.

52. On the 15th August last, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 19th September, the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji moved the following amendment to the Bengal Municipal Bill:—

That for section 7 of the Bill the following be substituted:—

"7 (1) For the words 'the last preceding section' in section 70, the words and figures 'section 69, sub-section (1), shall be substituted.

"(2) To the said section 70, the following shall be added, namely:—

'Notwithstanding anything in this section, the Municipal Fund may be supplied, by the vote of the majority referred to in the proviso to section 69, sub-section (1), and without the consent and sanction mentioned in this section, to meeting expenses incurred beyond the limits of the Municipality in the training of female medical practitioners, or of veterinary practitioners.'

Let two questions be put to Babu Surendranath Banerjee—

(1) Who drafted this amendment for him?

(2) At whose request did he move it?

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53. Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th September, has just completed the sixtieth year of her reign. Of

all the English Sovereigns she has ruled the longest—longer even than her grandfather, George III, who ruled a few months less than sixty years, and during that period suffered from temporary fits of insanity, leaving the reins of Government in the hands of his Ministers. No other English Sovereign has ruled with so much glory as Queen Victoria, and in this respect she has distanced even Queen Elizabeth in the race! Elizabeth's rule was glorious, but in a different sense. She exacted the people's loyalty through fear, while Victoria has won the love and reverence of the countless millions of her subjects! The people love her, respect her, and worship her! Elizabeth's English Empire, besides, was far smaller than Victoria's. In Sovereign power, Elizabeth was great, but in popularity Victoria is greater! For love is greater than power! May God give Victoria long life! Glory to the Queen-Empress!

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 26th September 1896.